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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1943 No. 32

GENERAL MONTGOMERY

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FORWARD TO TUNIS!

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BEFORE the battle of Mareth had begun, I told you that you had three things to do

FIRST, to deal with the enemy in the Mareth positions. That was done between March 21 and 28, during which 8,000 prisoners were taken

SECONDLY, to burst through the Gabes Gap. That was done on April 6. The enemy was so unwise as to stand up and fight us on the Wadi Akarit position. He received a tremendous hammering, and we took another 7,000 prisoners

THIRDLY, to go forward to Sfax, Sousse, and finally Tunis. This is now in progress of being done, and if we collect prisoners at the present rate, the enemy will soon have no infantry left to hold his positions

Nothing has stopped the Eighth Army and nothing can stop it. You have given to your families at home and to the entire world, good news, and plenty of it every day

I doubt whether our Empire has ever possessed such a magnificent fighting machine as the Eighth Army. It may become a household word all over the world. The triumphant cry now is: "Forward to Tunis to drive the enemy into the sea!"

GENERAL MONTGOMERY, *in a message to the Eighth Army, on April 10*

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"DUNKIRKING" OF THE AXIS

"All ranks of the East African Command send you and the whole Eigth Army sincere congratulations on your magnificent achievements, and best wishes for the final 'Dunkirking' of the Axis out of Africa."

—LIEUTENANT GENERAL PRATT, *Commander-in-Chief of the East African Forces in a message to General Montgomery, on April 13.*

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GENERAL MONTGOMERY'S TACTICS

"General Montgomery has a most disconcerting way of constantly altering his methods, and doing the unexpected. At El Alamein, his entire weight was directed against the twin Axis positions on the coast, and by successful penetration, the entire German flank crumbled up. At Mareth, he feinted a direct attack and threw most of his weight into the encircling movement, which paralysed the main defence. At Wadi Akarit, he took Rommel completely by surprise, by attacking in pitch dark. Whatever else he may do against Rommel's final defences, it can safely be assumed it will not be what everyone expects."

—Reuter's *Military Correspondent on April 13.*

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"JAPAN BEING DEFEATED IN TUNISIA"

"The Jap at this moment is being defeated in Tunisia just as Germany suffered a set-back at Guadalcanar, because it is impossible to plan a war against Germany apart from Japan, and *vice versa*. It is not a partnership of reciprocal loyalty which binds the Germans and the Japanese together. It is a companionship of common doom. They cannot escape ruin singly. If one yields ground, it means that the United Nations will have just that much force to expend on the other."

—JOSEPH G. GREW, *former United States Ambassador to Japan, in an address at Baltimore (U.S.A.)*

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The U-Boat Menace : Assessment of Degree of Seriousness.

Speaking at a Press Conference ten days ago (April 6), Colonel FRANK KNOX, the United States Secretary for the Navy, stated that Allied shipping losses in the Atlantic were considerably worse in March than in February, owing to intensified operations of the U-boat. This was due to the increased submarine activity in the Atlantic.

> " There are more sinkings, but more German submarines are out," said Colonel KNOX ; " This is a serious situation and a tough one. No one is complacent about it, or should be."

Referring to the bombings of European submarine bases the Naval Secretary said that they were handicapping and embarrassing German submarine activities to a certain extent. Colonel KNOX's statement cannot be taken to be an admission that the German claims of sinkings are not considerably exaggerated. His reference to the increase of U-boat activity in the Atlantic zone should be read in conjunction with the fact that sinkings by U-boats in January and February were fewer than anticipated. In a statement on March 31, Mr. ELMER DAVIS, Director of the United States Office of War Information, said that though the United Nations' merchant shipping losses during March 1943 had been worse than those in January or February, the month's total loss was far lower than that of any month in 1942. This does not mean that attempts are being made to minimize the seriousness of the shipping situation, for what is sought to be done is only assess the degree of that seriousness. It may be recalled that in his war review on February 11, Mr. CHURCHILL said.

> " The losses we suffer at sea are very heavy and hamper and delay our operations. They prevent us coming into action at our full strength, and thus prolong the war."

The point to be noted is that **the shipping losses determine the length of the war and not its result.** Allied offensive operations may be delayed on account of these losses, but the actual extent of the delay depends upon the margin between sinkings and new construction. A *minimum* of 14 million gross registered tons of new shipping will be built in 1943 by Britain and America. According to enemy claims this year, two million tons have so far been sunk. This means that, in the next nine months, an average of more than 1,300,000 tons monthly will have to be sunk if the enemy wants to prevent an increase in the present size of the merchant fleet of the United Nations.

Further, Berlin's claims of U-boat sinkings have never exceeded 150 ships a month at any season of any year. This means that though there are about

(*Continued on page* 6)

General Montgomery's Tactics

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THINGS are happening at a fast pace on the Tunisian front. General Montgomery's forces are moving from success to success. The Eighth Army has captured Gabes, Sfax, Sousse Enfidaville, and Rommel is retreating north into the mountains.

THE Allies have captured Fondouk Pass and the vital communication centre of Kairouan. The break-through which was achieved by an Allied attack at Fondouk was done after extremely severe fighting, and now over the great north plain on which the Luftwaffe had some of its best air fields, the British tanks and French and American infantry are moving.

FROM what might have been a most serious position, Rommel has extricated himself well at the last moment and retreated north beyond Sousse, which was occupied by the Eighth Army on the morning of April 12. This coupled with the capture of Kairouan, a vital communication centre, the previous day by the First Army has contracted the Axis-held area of Tunisia into a 'siege area' in the north-east corner. We shall leave Rommel in this awkward predicament and take a few steps back and see how General Montgomery's tactics have succeeded in out-manoeuvring a powerful enemy.

WE have already referred to the capture of the Mareth line and the outflanking movement to El Hamma. In passing, it may be noted that Berlin which freely used the term "Mareth Line" now seeks to deny the existence of it and refers to it merely as a "fighting zone." Though strictly speaking, the Mareth Line fortifications do not constitute "a line" as such, but form three lines of a string of fortified positions some nine to ten miles deep, what Berlin seeks to suggest is that there is an absence of prepared defences in that zone.

Tactical Brilliance

THE word "Mareth" has now been added to the list of battle-honours of the British Eighth Army. It was only after hard fighting that this great victory was achieved. In strategic importance it will undoubtedly rank close behind that of El Alamein, and for tactical brilliance even higher. When it was announced on March 23 that Rommel's forces had regained most of the ground which they had lost at the coastal end of the Mareth line, it seemed as though a very serious reverse had happened to us. But looking at it in its proper perspective in the light of all that has since happened, our attack seems to have been something like an experimental probe.

THE infantry fought its way across the terribly difficult Wadi Zig Zaou to the ridge beyond, where it met a series of heavy counter-attacks from the enemy. The way in which these counter-attacks were held at first gave the impression that our infantry could succeed in effecting a break-through. But after some 36 hours, such great pressure was brought to bear by the enemy that our troops were forced back. However, there does not seem to have been very heavy casualties on this account.

THE attack was switched further inland on March 24 and 25 and the Eighth Army occupied some ground south of Wadi Zig Zaou and some three miles north of the Mareth-Medenine Road. Meanwhile, intense air and artillery bombardment was being kept up, which was, of course, having a telling effect on the enemy's supply and communications. It was at this time that an exploratory column consisting of tanks, motorists and foot infantry and guns had been sent on a daring trek around the enemy's western flank.

Two Probes

THE tactical plan of General Montgomery is now seen very clearly, as different pieces emerge as part of a closely knit unity. He drove two probes into Rommel's heavily fortified quadrilateral. One was frontal, and the other enfilading. Each had a purpose of its own. The frontal attack was intended to test the possibility of a direct break-through along the coast and compel Rommel to bring large concentration of his troops and armour to the south-eastern corner of his position. The object of the enfilading probe to El Hamma was to test the feasibility of throwing the main weight of the Eighth Army against the enemy's rear and force Rommel to dissipate his strength in the west as well as in the south. And this purpose was achieved very successfully indeed!

GENERAL MONTGOMERY made a very important decision when he saw that his frontal drive was pushed back and the enfilading probe succeeded in fixing itself deep in the enemy's flank. He moved rapidly the entire bulk of the Eighth Army—guns, infantry and tanks—under cover of darkness around the western slopes of the Matmata Hills and struck north towards El Hamma. This crucial decision of General Montgomery has changed rapidly the further course of the war in Tunisia completely in favour of the Allies.

ROMMEL expected that the Mareth Line would be outflanked, and he was waiting for the attack with a very strong force. He switched everything he could afford against this daring and dangerous thrust at his rear. But the relentless pressure along the Mareth positions was kept up without slackening. In the early hours of the morning, the Eighth Army emerged from the camouflage and began an advance between Tebaga and the Melab heights in six massive columns supported by many hundreds of aircraft overhead. Terrific fighting ensued, and all that Rommel could do was to delay the advance of the Eighth Army for some time and save the Afrika Korps from destruction. His panzer division was badly mauled and he suffered heavy losses in guns and transport—a price which he had to pay to keep open the Gabes gap between the mountains and the sea long enough to enable the bulk of his troops on the Mareth Line to pass through and retreat to the north.

GENERAL MONTGOMERY'S tactics made the victory of the Mareth-Gabes quadrilateral full and complete. Now the Eighth Army's invasion of Southern Tunisia has merged into the comprehensive plan chalked out by General Eisenhower and General Alexander for throwing out the Axis from North Africa.

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RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page 3*)

150 U-boats at sea at any given moment, on an average one U-boat sinks not more than one ship per month. It is also well to bear in mind that the Axis claims of sinkings are roughly 50 per cent greater than the true figures. Dr. GOEBBELS's favourite trick is to dodge the fact that the new shipping output of the United Nations is more than replacing their losses. He does not compare the current month's losses with the current month's output, but compares the losses over a period of a year or more with the output in the same period with a view to showing a marked contrast. This is because the United States shipyards are only just beginning to approach the capacity output. One ship a day was the rate of shipbuilding in America a year ago, but now it has quadrupled, and in two months' time it is expected that America will build five ships a day.

One point that we should remember in regard to the sinkings is that, since the summer of 1942, the rate of new building began to exceed the rate of sinking; the merchant fleet to-day is bigger by more than two million tons than it was then. Even if we take the exaggerated claims of German sinkings, we find that they admit the rate of American production and thereby the fact that America alone has more than replaced the sinkings in the three months, December 1942 to February 1943. The following table clarifies this position :—

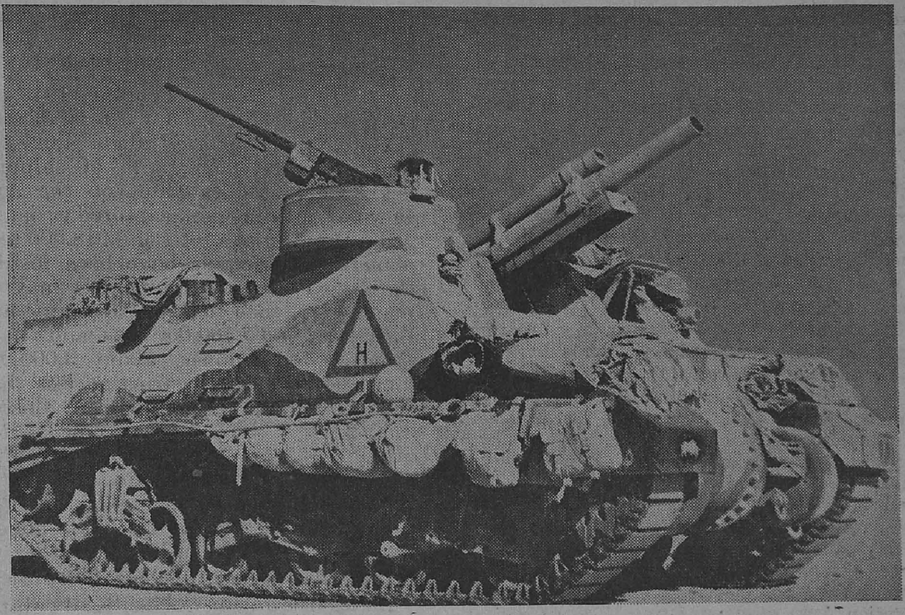
	Berlin Claims of Sinkings.		Output of U.S. Shipyards.	
	Ships.	Gross tons.	Ships.	Gross tons.
December	109	634,800	125	777,000
January	81	522,000	106	705,880
February	90	577,000	130	867,440
	280	1,733,800	361	2,350,320

The fact that the new tonnage produced by the United Nations during the last eight months has exceeded the losses by a good deal more than two million tons has been referred to by Mr. A. V. ALEXANDER, First Lord of the British Admirality, on March 30. During these months, about seven million tons of new merchant shipping have been completed in the shipyards of United Nations. Our losses for the same period have been less than five million tons. It may be stated that for every two ships lost in the past eight months we have built three.

Shipping Problem of the Axis Powers. Let us now look at the shipping problem of the Axis Powers. Up to the end of February 1943, the Germans had lost 3,365,000 tons of merchant shipping and the Italians 4,027,000 tons. Further 626,000 tons of shipping belonging to the satellites of the Axis Powers had been sunk, captured or damaged. That means a total of 8,018,000 tons of merchant shipping have been lost by the Axis Powers in Europe. It may be pointed out that in 1939 Germany and Italy possessed 7,500,000 tons and have acquired by conquest about 3,000,000 tons and by new construction less than 2,000,000 tons. Deducting the losses, we find that the shipping now at the disposal of the Axis in Europe is not more than 4,500,000 tons and if the losses suffered at the hands of the Red Air Force and the Red Navy are added, this figure will diminish still further by perhaps as much as 1,000,000 tons.

As regards Japan, Colonel KNOX stated on March 27 that about 1,857,000 tons of Japanese shipping had been destroyed. When Japan started the Pacific War, she had not more than 6,000,000 tons. By new construction, it is estimated that 250,000 tons have been added. 250,000 tons of shipping belonging to European Axis powers which were in Far East waters, 220,000 tons Allied shipping acquired by seizure, and 100,000 tons of salvage of sunken Allied vessels may be further added, but even with these additions the total shipping now at the disposal of the Axis in Asia is not more than 5,000,000 tons.

What are Japan's shipping commitments ? Between 1,000,000 and 1,750,000 tons of Japanese shipping are devoted exclusively to transport of troops and supplies to the China front. Requirements of other battle fronts at the lowest estimate would come to about 2,500,000 tons. That is to say between 3,500,000 and 4,250,000 tons of Japanese shipping are tied up on account of these present military commitments. This leaves about 750,000 or 1,500,000 tons for the "development" of the co-prosperity sphere. It is obvious that Japan's military operations depend to a considerable extent, on the transportation of vital raw materials of the conquered territories in the South Seas to Japan, and this means that, within a very short time, Japan will have to release shipping by reducing her military commitments so that the transport of materials essential to the maintenance of her munitions production might take place.



GENERAL PRIEST.—The General Priest *is a 105-mm. howitzer on a self-propelled chassis. Having a high turn of speed and being easily manœuvred, it is proving a most effective weapon. One of these guns, it is claimed, has already knocked out 14 German 88-mm. anti-tank guns and 2 enemy tanks.*

Germans Know Everything About War, Except How to Win

BRITAIN'S Prime Minister is one of the few men in Europe who have watched every stage of the development of the German Empire into the Third Reich. In his latest book—*Thoughts and Adventures*—he gives a remarkable picture of Germany as she was at the very beginning of this development.

Yet development somehow hardly seems the right word, writes. Harold Hobson in *London Calling*. It implies growth, and that again implies change. And in the case of Germany there appears to be no change at all. A monarchy has become a republic. A Kaiser has given way to a Fuehrer. But both Kaiser and Fuehrer have the same arrogance, the same scorn for the rights of other peoples, the same contempt for their opponents, the same uncontrollable ambition, the same mad urge towards destruction and disaster.

In *Thoughts and Adventures* Mr. Churchill goes back to 1906. In that year he was Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and he received from the German Emperor an invitation to attend, as his guest, the annual manœuvres of the German Army in Silesia, just as, not so very long ago, the representatives of the democratic powers used to be invited to be present at the annual jamborees and flag-wagging and drum-thumping and hysterical speeches of the Nazi Party at Nuremberg. When the Germans went in for this sort of thing—and they went in for it constantly—they did it thoroughly. Every night there was a 'glittering full-dress banquet;' the guests went to bed about midnight, and they were got up again at three or four the next morning and shot off to the manœuvring ground, where the daily display of German might began at dawn and continued for ten or twelve hours. Then there was another banquet, another few hours' sleep, another twelve hours' display, and another banquet, and so on. The idea seems to have been to tire the guests out, so they might surrender all the more readily to the spectacle of German power unfolded before them.

FORMIDABLE AND EVEN STUPEFYING

And what a spectacle it was! "In the Review," says Mr. Churchill, "which preceded the manœuvres, 50,000 horse, foot, and artillery marched past the Emperor and his galaxy of kings and princes. The infantry, regiment by regiment, in line of

battalion quarter columns, reminded one more of great Atlantic rollers than human formations. Clouds of cavalry, avalanches of field guns and—at that time a novelty—squadrons of motor-cars (private and military) completed the array. For five hours the immense enfilade continued. Yet this was only a twentieth part of the armed strength of the Regular German Army before mobilization; and the same martial display could have been produced simultaneously in every province of the Empire.'

No wonder this tremendous display made Churchill think rather seriously. "I thought," he says "of our tiny British Army, in which the parade of a single division and a brigade of cavalry at Aldershot was a notable event. I watched from time to time the thoughtful, sombre visage of the French Military Attache, who sat on his horse beside me absorbed in reflections which it would not have been difficult to plumb. The very atmosphere was pervaded by a sense of inexhaustible and exuberant manhood and deadly panoply. The glories of this world and force abounding could not present a more formidable, and even stupefying, manifestation."

Now, here comes the enormous German paradox. The Germans glory in war. They prepare for war. They devote most of their genious to war. They submit to all kinds of sacrifices in order that their General Staff may have all the men and all the weapons of precisely the sort it wants. They choose their opponents. They choose the time of attack. They go in at the most favourable moment, with the most overwhelming strength. And then they lose. They lost in 1918. They are losing now. The Germans know everything about war, except how to win.

It's an extraordinary thing, this. What is the reason? Mr. Churchill does not tell us exactly in so many set phrases. But his mind constantly returns to the German problem, and the alert reader can easily find in his pages brilliant indications why the Germans invariably finish their fights by being knocked through the ropes.

U-BOAT STRUGGLE OF THE LAST WAR

One of them is to be found in the enthralling account that Mr. Churchill gives of the U-boat struggle in the last war, which is closely parallel to the battle under the water going on to-day. It began in 1916, this life-and-death struggle of the Royal Navy with the German U-boats. . . "It was a warfare hitherto undreamed of among men, a warfare at once more merciless and complicated than had ever been conceived. All the known sciences, every adaptation of mechanics, optics, and acoustics that could play a part, were pressed into its service. It was a war of charts and calculations, of dials and switches, of experts who were also heroes, of tense, patient thought interrupted by explosions and death; of crews hunted and choked in the depth of the waters, and great ships foundering far from port without aid or mercy. And upon the workings of this grisly process turned the history of the world."

That is what Mr. Churchill says about the submarine peril of the last war. We have the same peril to-day. But with this difference. In the last war there was unrestricted U-boat attack for two years only. The war had been on for twenty-five months before it started. In this war the Germans were not restrained by any scruples at any time. They threw in their submarines from the very beginning, and we have had to fight that menace for more than forty months.

Now the point about the unrestricted U-boat warfare of the last war is that it brought the United States in against Germany. By adding to the list of enemies of Germany an immensely powerful and brave nation, the Germans themselves made their own victory impossible. That is what they always do. They put on the bridge more than it will bear. For all their blatant and brilliant propaganda, the Germans lack the political art of limiting the number of their enemies. Sooner or later they build up against themselves an irresistible and huge coalition. They did that in the last war and they have done it again in this. Both times they have brought in America against them. They cut their own throats with submarines once. And now they have done it again with Japs. They are an ambitious and brave people, but stupid—oh, so stupid!

PURELY MILITARY CONSIDERATION

But there is another reason Mr. Churchill hints at. This is that the Germans judge by purely military considerations. At the end of 1917 the Germans might possibly have made peace. The Allies might have been in the mood to consider the possibility of an armistice. If they had gained an armistice then, the German people would have avoided untold misery. But, says Mr. Churchill, "First Quartermaster-General Ludendorff, mounted on the German General Staff, dominated not only the military but the political scene, and

FOR ILLEGAL TRANSPORT OF PADDY AND RICE

Lakshmana Naicken, Velu Servai and Somayya Tevan were convicted of transporting or attempting to transport paddy and rice without permits from the Tanjore district to places outside the district by the Subdivisional Magistrate, Pattukkottai. The first accused was sentenced to 9 months' rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 100 or 6 weeks rigorous imprisonment in default, while the second and third accused were sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 50 each or to undergo one month's rigorous imprisonment each in default

JAPANESE PRISONERS LINE UP FOR ROLL CALL.—A United States Navy officer at a Southern Pacific base calls the roll of a group of Japanese prisoners before they are transferred to a prison camp. The prisoners are holding their belongings.

Ludendorff had other ideas. The realities of war had reduced the Emperor to a mere function of the wartime situation. The political system of Germany was not such as to throw up from the parliamentary machine the audacious or rugged figures that had seized the helm in England or France. Everything in Germany had been sacrificed to the military view. On every occasion the General Staff had had their way, and now this intense and mighty organism, at once the strength and ruin of the German Empire, focused itself in what for the actual guidance of events was virtually a Ludendorff Dictatorship.'

And so Ludendorff did not make peace, but war. At a conference at Mons on November 11, 1917, exactly one year before the end, Ludendorff declared: "The British must be beaten," and at dawn on March 21, 1918, sixty-six German divisions, with 375 field, 297 heavy, and twenty-eight super-heavy batteries or altogether 6,200 guns, were launched against a front held by nineteen British divisions. But the assault, though powerful, was not powerful enough. "Everyone knows," says Mr. Churchill, "how the line of the British Fifth Army was bent backwards with a loss of 150,000 men and 1,000 guns, and how the Germans pressed into the ever-distending bulge in their march upon Amiens; how General Petain resolved to break contact with the British Army, and reserve the whole French forces for the defence of Paris; how, nevertheless, the thin line was never broken; how the British right-hand and the French left, joined as they had been during four shattering years, were destined not to be unclasped till victory was won."

NO LOVE FOR THE LAST DITCH

Now Ludendorff had chosen war. But as soon as war began to go against him, he repented bitterly. On August 8 his army was cut to pieces. He called it "the black day of the German Army." And it sent him, literally, into fits. He decided with the utmost suddenness that Germany was beaten. He lost his nerve completely. He clamoured for instant surrender. It was a pitiful exhibition. The Germans, it seems, have no love for the last ditch. They don't like fighting with their backs to the wall. They lack the supreme military virtue. That is why they lose.

By the way, of all the high officers of the old Imperial German Army, the one who, right from the start, most favoured and supported Adolf Hitler in his bid for power in Germany, was this same Ludendorff, who surrendered so quickly that he took the Allied generals by surprise. Hitler, of course, says that he will never surrender. That is what he has told the German people. He thinks himself made of sterner stuff than his old military friend. Well, we shall see—perhaps before very long. We can afford to be patient. We are watching.

And so is Winston Churchill.

Strange Generalization

A subaltern knows nothing and does everything; a captain knows everything and does nothing; a major knows nothing and does nothing.

The Challenge of the U-boats

A Review of the Naval War in 1942

By H. C. FERRABY

WE are right bang in the heart of the making of history and so it is a little difficult for us to realise just how important are some of the events in which we take part. The member of a football team doesn't always realise until afterwards that he has taken part in one of the outstanding, historic matches in the records of the game. And so it has been with us during the past year. We have written some remarkable pages of history and not the least remarkable of them have been those connected with the war at sea.

I rather doubt whether even yet the shore-living citizens of the world fully appreciate the stupendous character of that seaborne expedition that started in North-West African Campaign. It is all very well to say that it is the biggest in history. But we can't let it go at that. Its historical importance is far greater than its physical size. It marked the definite seizure of the initiative by the United Nations in the whole strategy of the war, and that seizure was made possible by control of the sea—and, what is more, control of the surface of the sea. That part of the expedition aimed at ports in the Western Mediterranean was venturing into waters in which the enemy had available a powerful battle fleet quite capable materially of interfering with the success of the expedition. Yet it failed completely to make any impression on our plans.

PROVED INEFFECTIVE

In the whole of its passage through the Atlantic the expedition was passing through waters in which during the preceding months the enemy submarines had been doing more damage to shipping than at any corresponding period in the whole course of this war. Yet that subsidiary weapon, the submarine, proved quite ineffective as a challenge to the expedition's movements, and could reduce its strength by no more than one ship out of five hundred. The U-boats' own losses we know to have been thirteen in the course of one week.

These are important historic facts of which we must not lose sight amid the more dramatic stories that capture the headlines in the newspapers. History isn't written in headlines.

If it were we should perhaps have to consider as one of the outstanding facts of the last year the headline of last April : "Japanese Fleet in the Indian Ocean." But the important fact is the headline which did not appear, say during December : "Japanese Fleet no longer in the Indian Ocean." Historically that is by far the more important fact of the two, but it has not been announced in bold type. Yet actually the contrast between those two statements does give us a very fair, general summary of the naval history of 1942 so far as the Far Eastern war is concerned. At its beginning Japan was seemingly on the full flood of success. I said at the time that her achievements presented the glittering appearance of victory. But I said also that it was only an appearance and that she had failed to estimate the real strength of the pressure at sea that would be brought to bear against her when the United States Navy had recovered from the disorganization caused by Pearl Harbour.

She maintained that glittering appearance for nearly four months. In the late spring her spokesmen were talking grandly of her coming advance across the Indian Ocean through Ceylon and right up to Aden. They were talking of Greater East Asia under Japanese control as though it were as firmly established as the British Empire in the nineteenth century. But what of the remaining eight months of that year?

WITHDRAWN FROM INDIAN OCEAN

The Japanese battle fleet was speedily withdrawn from the Indian Ocean when the American naval threat developed in the distant Pacific. The Battles of the Coral Sea and of Midway Island showed Tokyo what it ought to have known all the time—that Japan's freedom of movement by sea was anything but

[*Continued on page* 12]

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An American soldier now in Northern Ireland is said to have written home :

"Dear Dad—Gue$$ what I need mo$t of all. That'$ right, $end it along. Be$t wihe. Your $on, Tom."

The father replied: "Dear Tom—NOthing ever happens here. Write us aNOther letter aNOn. Jimmy was asking about you Monday. NOw we have to say good-bye."

HITLER AND MUSSOLINI

[*Hitler and Mussolini conferred on April 7 on the steps to be taken for the defence of Europe against invasion.*]

SILVER FISH OF THE SKIES.—Gently floating in the sky, these harmless looking balloons strike fear into the heart of enemy airmen.. The thin hawsers attached to the balloons will tear apart any plane that flies into them, thus keeping the enemy up high. The Battle of Britain proved the value of the men who kept the balloons flying. Their life is often lonely, mostly unexciting, but the part they play in the defence of India is large. Photo shows sepoys steadying a balloon as it rises.

THE CHALLENGE OF THE U-BOATS

[*Continued from page* 10.]

firmly established. From then onwards the slow but remorseless pressure of superior sea strength has been exerted against her. The four months of glittering offensive expansion were followed by eight months of dogged and often unsuccessful defence.

Since the days of Togo and the Russo-Japanese War there has grown up a legend in Japan that her navy is invincible. That legend has been blown to pieces in one encounter after another since last April, and in order to bolster up the remnants among its populace the Japanese Government finds itself forced to copy the German method of inventing totally imaginary enemy losses. Tokyo's recently issued tables of the sinkings of Allied warships during the year is a feat of exaggeration equal to anything that Doctor Goebbels has ever achieved.

The naval struggle in the Far East during the year has made history also in that it has provided us with the first two sea battles ever fought in which the only armament employed was the new air weapon. We have not yet anything like a full account of these two battles and it is much too early to start drawing up definite lessons from them. But we can note, as a guide to further consideration of the influence of the air on war at sea, that on each occasion the opponents appear to have been sparring rather than coming to grips, and that neither battle was decisive in that the fleet which had the worst of the exchanges was able to withdraw and elude further punishment. And it is also instructive to note that subsequently the Japanese, in their attempt to move reinforcements in the Solomon Islands area, were content to depend almost wholly upon escort by surface vessels combined with movement at night when aircraft co-operation was difficult if not impossible.

GRIMMEST PAGE

And what of the history that has been made during 1942 in the Atlantic? This has been the grimmest page written since 1917. Destruction of merchant shipping has proceeded on a scale greater than anything achieved by the U-boats in any of the earlier years of this war. And though we can see some of the reasons for this, it is undoubtedly disappointing. It has meant in effect that the tremendous output of new shipping from the United States yards and the great efforts that have been made in the British and Dominion yards have not done much more than replace the losses of the year. We had counted upon a great accession of carrying power at the start of 1943. That we shall not now get, and one effect of this is already to be seen in the imposing of further rationing restrictions throughout the United States. Sea war can exert an influence far inland.

But parallel with the successes of the U-boats in 1942 we can see also as a historic fact that the United Nations have maintained and increased to an enormous extent the activity of their overseas military expeditions. If you look at the map of the world and count up the number of places where we are known to be on the offensive on land, and add to them the unknown number of oversea bases and supply depots which are being maintained, you will see that the commerce-destruction campaign by the Axis, however much it may have harassed us, has not crippled or checked our ability to use the sea as the greatest and most important strategic highway of the war. There has been loss of life and there has been loss of material on an enormous scale, but the convoys still go through. The U-boat is to-day, as it was in 1917, a serious menace. But it is now, as it was then, a subsidiary weapon. And subsidiary weapons are not the decisive elements in the making of history.—*London Calling*.

'Boat Race' in the Bay of Bengal

An Indian Air Force *Blenheim*, on patrol over the Bay of Bengal, came down in the sea owing to engine trouble. Piloting the aircraft was an Indian Squadron-Leader, a Cambridge graduate, and with him was a British Wing-Commander, an Oxford man.

In the distance was a fishing boat.

The bomber crew, huddled on the wing, held a conference. "I'll swim to it," said the Wing-Commander.

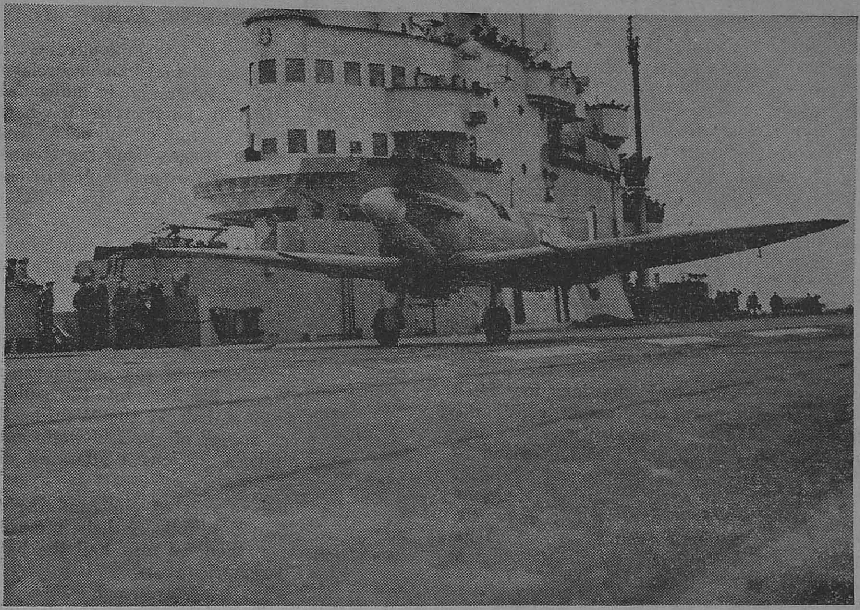
"Come on in, the water's fine," he called, as he struck out.

The next moment the Squadron-Leader and airgunner accepted the invitation. They had to. The bomber sank.

The Squadron-Leader finishes the story:

"Soon my crawl took me past the Wing-Commander's breast stroke, and twenty minutes later we had all been picked up.

"I was first—which proves that Cambridge can win the 'boat' race, even in the Bay of Bengal."



THE "SEAFIRE," THE NAVY'S NEW FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.—High-speed fighters operating from British aircraft carriers, first came into the limelight as the result of their fine work protecting the great Russia convoy from air attacks. Now the Royal Navy has a still newer fighter—the Seafire*—which has already proved its worth in the North Africa operations, when large numbers of them, operating from aircraft carriers, provided fighter protection for the convoys and escorting warships before the Allied occupation of the airfields. The* Seafire, *as its name implies, is a Spitfire modified for the special conditions of working from an aircraft carrier—a development which will undoubtedly have a very important bearing in future naval operations. Photo shows a* Seafire *flying off from an aircraft carrier.*

Battle of the Bridgeheads

FROM lake Ilmen right down to the Sea of Azov, the Russian front is one stupendous battlefield, writes the *Daily Telegraph* military correspondent. On the northern front, south of lake Ilmen, the Russians are attacking fiercely in the face of great natural obstacles and strong opposition.

Their aim, none the less, seems to be primarily defensive—the incorporation of lake Ilmen firmly in their system of defence, thus strengthening both Leningrad and Moscow against attack, respectively from the south and the north. On the central front, having successfully eliminated the salient west of Moscow, they continue their slow but steady advance on Smolensk in the most difficult conditions but though only 40 miles from it, they do not claim that it is threatened yet.

On the southern front a German counter-offensive has been in progress for a month with no sign as yet that it is abating. The fall of Kharkov has been followed by a savage battle on the 300-mile front from Kursk to Voroshilovgrad. Kharkov is a great city and a great railway centre, therefore, a great military base, but it is not a strong place. Kharkov has no Volga at its back to protect its flanks. It stands or falls with the Donetz basin.

Thus with the Germans already on or near the Donetz on a 200-mile front to the south-east, General Golikov made his grim decision. Like Kutosov, before Moscow in 1812, he would yield the city to save his army.

For now the battle rages on the bridgeheads on the Donetz. To all appearance, it is a battle of unprecedented fury. The Germans claim over 50,000 Russians dead. At normal reckoning, this might mean 250,000 Russian casualties. The Germans themselves attacking in superior numbers have probably lost more. For both armies it is indeed blood-letting. Yet of prisoners, the Germans claim less than 20,000, proof enough that their encirclement aim has failed. In fact it is a Russian defensive battle true to the type of Borodin in microcosm. The Germans have taken Byelgorod, stepping stone to Kursk.

RUSSIAN WITHDRAWAL

The Russians admit withdrawal east of Kharkov. But as a whole the Russian line

holds. As we watch this gigantic struggle, which may yet prove to be one of the war's decisive battles, we may ask ourselves: how have the Germans found the means to achieve this sudden reversal of fortunes in the winter campaign and at what further objectives does this German counter-offensive aim?

As to the means, the answer is plain. Most unwillingly at the outset, but latterly not without intention, the Germans have shortened their line, a process which has resulted automatically in increased depth not only for defence but for attack.

It is true that the Germans have at the same time withdrawn formations from the west but these withdrawals seem to have amounted to little more than the normal interchange of shattered divisions for fresh troops. Furthermore, the Russian front is one battlefield. And a commander who considers his dispositions for a battle seldom plans to make all parts of his front of equal strength. Where he means to gain decision, there he must have strength and to spare: elsewhere he may have to accept reverses so long as he can restore the situation at last in his own way and time.

GERMAN OFFENSIVE AIMS

As to the aims of the prolonged German counter-offensive these may now be relatively small or great. A lesser aim is indisputable. It is to re-establish the front from where it now runs east of Orel to the head of the waters of the Donetz and thence along the Donetz—with bridgeheads on the further north-eastern bank—to link up with the Mius front to Taganrog.

It has been supposed reasonably enough, that before the Wehrmacht could be capable of more, it needed some months at least to heal it of its grievous wounds. Events may still bear out or rebut this view. For a month now the German command has persisted in its offensive regardless of the blood-letting it can so ill afford. It has flung into the cauldron not much short of half of the Wehrmacht's armour, great masses of the Luftwaffe and a part of Himmler's precious Waffen SS divisions.

If the Russians succeed in confining the Germans within the limits of their immediate lesser objective, then we may hail the battle as a great Russian victory.

Magic Mountain of Iron

THE Magic Mountain, they call it: a towering peak of pure iron thrown up by some strange natural freak on one of the toughest and wildest plains in the tropics.

And the Magic Mountain was revealed by the Colonial Office in London recently as Britain's number one source of iron ore, now that we can get none from Sweden.

About ten years ago, a group of Scotsmen set out to investigate travellers' tales about an iron mountain, named Marampa, in the most desolate part of Sierra Leone in West Africa. From the Freetown harbour, these Scotsmen started on a trip up the Rokel river where crocodiles, typhus and malaria abound.

Fifty-two miles they sailed past swampy villages on water's edge. Then they saw the Magic Mountain, a formidable volcanic hill, its surface glinting blood red in the sun.

It looked like a gigantic steak and kidney pudding, they said afterwards, and the pudding was the 10 per cent crust consisting of crude red ore and 90 per cent steak and kidney: the finest quality of iron ore. So rich in iron it was that the job was not so much to mine the ore as to move it from the mountain.

Under the direction of their manager, Mr. Alec Lyle, of Angus, the Scotsmen set about building a plant.

It was no easy job. The machinery had to be unloaded at the mouth of the river and taken up to Marampa in lighters. There was no skilled labour. A railway had to be built to carry the ore from the mountain to the sea. These Scotsmen received scant encouragement as they built their plant. Britain was getting the iron she wanted from Sweden cheaply in those days before the war. But they did not give up.

The mountain looks like an almost half-eaten pudding now.

Thirty-six truck trains are bringing 1,000 tons of ore at a time down the 52-mile track to the sea now. That railway can deal with 5,000 tons daily. —*Daily Express.*

200 PER CENT FIT!

There is a story going about that when Mr. Churchill visited the Eighth Army and congratulated General Montgomery on his victory, Montgomery (who, to use Mr. Churchill's own description of him, is a stern, Cromwellian figure) said: "I don't smoke, and I take plenty of exercise, I keep regular hours and I'm a hundred per cent fit." Mr. Churchill, with a wave of his cigar, retorted: "I smoke, I take no exercise, I keep irregular hours, and I'm 200 per cent fit!".

—*MacDonald Hastings in a B.B.C. Talk.*

ARMY COMMANDER IN BURMA

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Up in the forward areas Lieutenant-General N. M. S. Irwin has been visiting and talking with the men. Photo shows Lieutenant-General Irwin talking to some of the troops.

Lieutenant-General Irwin talking with some of his officers.

★

Turkey has A New Medjlis

By LEONARD KIRSCHEN

ON February 28, Turkey elected her deputies. Four hundred and fifty-five deputies were returned and this is an increase according to revised statistics of 26 seats and not 35 as I had assumed in a previous dispatch. This means that Turkey has now 650,000 men and women more, over the age of nineteen, 650,000 more than four years ago.

Before going any further let us dwell on this point. Turkey is composed practically entirely of Anatolian soil, European Turkey being but a very small contribution to the whole. Anatolia was once upon a time the granary of the old world but neglect and deforestation turned the central Anatolian plateau into a wilderness. Only the fringes bordering the sea were populated. It was Kemal Ataturk's desire that colonisation of Anatolia should be planned from within, that is from the wilderness towards the green sea bordering fringes. He knew that the settlers of the more fertile regions of Anatolia would not have the energy to work their way inland.

INCREASE IN POPULATION

He chose Ankara right in the middle of the barren plateau as the capital of modern Turkey. And then Turkey began to colonize the barren plateau with immigrants from Greece, who had been exchanged for Greeks living in Asia Minor, and Turks from Roumania—The Roumanian Doorudja—and so slowly with the influx of immigrants grew the population of Turkey. For years this was the main cause for Turkey's growth of population. Since the last elections in spring 1939, the frontiers have been closed all the time. In the first place the countries from which came the Turks were mobilising and therefore reluctant to give up any male population and secondly Turkey was not very eager to receive immigrants from abroad at a delicate moment. Therefore, since that time there was no immigration.

The increase in the number of deputies represents an increase of 650,000 over the age of nineteen. The increase in the whole age groups must be something like 900,000—1,000,000 souls.

NATION'S NEW DISPUTIES

But let us come back to the new Medjlis. This time there are 149 new deputies that means that 30 per cent of the new deputies have been elected for the first time. The people who voted in the second degree had a good deal to do with this change. For the first time in modern Turkish elections in sixty per cent of the constituencies, the choice of electing the final list came to the second degree voters. So they chose and it seemed that they preferred the younger generations and those who had not sat in the Medjlis to those who had for many years. The Turkish people taught some of the older generations that the Medjlis is not a sinecure or an old age pensions institution where those with previous merits could sit and sleep peacefully thus obstructing the way to future generations. Doctors and Generals were in the first place sent back to private life, although 8 new doctors and 5 generals were elected.

The most bitter defeat to be suffered by any one was that of Yunus Nadi Albaoglu, deputy of Mugla for over 20 years. He was not re-elected and was beaten in his own constituency by the news editor of the *Djumhuryiet* of Istanbul, a paper with pro-Nazi sympathies which Yunus Nadi owns. The tendency of his paper has earned him the sobriequet of Julius Nazi.

NEW OUTLOOK

The Turkish people have received the New Medjlis with a certain satisfaction because they have themselves contributed to renew the atmosphere in the Medjlis and to lower the average age of the new house. One must not, however, expect wide sweeping reforms from the new Medjlis. Slowly the country is going over to democracy as we know it. I have said this all along and all I want to do just now is to underline the slow, cautious but sure progress in this direction. Turkey has now the war-and-transition Parliament. I had forecast about 120 new deputies, 149 were actually elected.

Bulgaria's Fear

IT is fully believed in the Balkans, as in Turkey, that the Allied invasion of Europe must begin as soon as North Africa has been cleared of the enemy, says the *Daily Telegraph's* Ankara correspondent. Newspapers in Bulgaria draw attention to the possibility of invasion by way of Bulgaria, and point to the fortification of the islands in the Aegean, especially Mudros Bay in Lemnos Island. The evacuation of Bulgarian and Rumanian cities and the special air raid precautions which have been taken in both countries show a fear that the blow will come in this direction.

Germany, already hard pressed for man-power, has no soldiers for the defence of the Balkans. She can spare only a few technical troops, a.-a. defences and fighter planes. Defence of the Balkans is, therefore, left to 30 Bulgarian and 20 Italian divisions. The fighter strength of the Balkans is estimated at 300 planes.

There are strong German forces in Crete—where they have three divisions—in Greek harbours and one on Bulgaria's Black Sea shore. There is feverish activity throughout the Balkans to mobilise labour for defence works.

" Mayling, the youngest and most versatile of the Soong sisters, is known and admired all over the world as Madame Chiang-Kai-shek." Photo shows Madame Chiang-Kai-shek at a tea party in Chungking given in honour of Mr. Wendell Willkie, President Roosevelt's special representative. She is now in the United States of America returning Mr. Willkie's visit.

Leaders of China's Womanhood

THE Soong sisters are the three most remarkable women in China to-day. Their keen intelligence, organizing ability, wit and charm would make them stand out as leaders in any community; but in China they represent not only all that is finest in Chinese women to-day, but the whole effort of the Chinese women to work on terms of equality with men, for victory in their war for freedom.

The three sisters are very distinct personalities, and each has made her special contribution to China in her own way. Eling, the eldest sister, is the wife of Dr. H. H. Kung, China's Finance Minister. An expert on finance in her own right, she has perhaps a more severe practical outlook than the other two.

When the Japanese attacked China in August 1937, Madame Kung threw herself into war work, discovering her marked talent for organization and business. She provided ambulances and trucks for the army out of her private funds, started well-equipped hospitals on her own initiative, organized the sale of Liberty Bonds. When the Industrial Co-operatives were started, Madame Kung gave the movement her full support, and she takes a keen interest in textile and other manufactures. She hopes that in time Chinese women may find greater freedom and leisure when their household work is lightened by running water and mechanical appliances.

CHINGLING THE IDEALIST

Chingling, the second sister, is an idealist, beautiful in character and appearance, who has devoted her life to carry on the work of her husband, Dr. Sun Yat-sen. She married him at the age of 20, when he had only a few more years to live, strenuous years spent in the political education of his people. Chingling worked hard as Dr. Sun's secretary, dealing with his French and English correspondence. After his death she continued his work in the Kuomintang School and served on the Central Executive Committee of the Kuomintang. When the breach came between Chiang-Kai-shek and the Communists, she retired from public life, urging in her farewell message that the new China must be built on the foundations of the people and peasants. The guerilla warfare which the country people are waging everywhere to-day has justified her prophetic words. Madame Sun was the first of the three sisters to take an active interest in and give her support to the Industrial Co-operatives.

MAYLING

Mayling, the youngest and most versatile sister, is known and admired all over the

world as Madame Chiang Kai-shek. Her energy, courage and practical ability have been tested in many different fields. She has reorganized the Chinese air force, she deals with all the Generalissimo's foreign contacts and correspondence, she directs women's war work, and personally trains teachers to go into the country and organize health centres. She has started war orphanages where thousands of homeless children are growing up in safety and being cared for and educated. Her recent address to the United States Congress has been acclaimed as one of the best speeches ever made by the representative of a foreign power.

War has brought the Soong sisters closer together than at any time since their childhood. Differences of opinion, which divided them politically though never personally, are sunk in the common determination to do all they can to further China's war effort. Chinese women look to them for leadership and inspiration, and their place in history is secured as the three women who have contributed most to the making of modern China.

Sino-British Alliance

WRITING on the forthcoming visit to Britain of Dr. T. V. Soong, the Chinese Foreign Minister, the *Sao Tang Jih Pao* remarks that it will further strengthen the Sino-British alliance. The paper reviews at length the close co-operation and help that Britain has given to China since 1935, when China established her new financial system, and the help given to China by British banking concerns in Shanghai and Hong Kong in working out her financial policy. It recalls the aid given by Britain—by both people and Government in China's war of resistance, aid which has immensely helped in sustaining China's courage and fortifying her confidence in ultimate victory. Despite Britain's own difficulties, the paper continues, that co-operation remains unrelaxed. It cites the £5,000,000 loan for the Chinese stabilization fund and the £10,000,000 credit loan.

In view of her traditional Far Eastern policy Great Britain always needs a trustful friend in the Far East to make British interests there secure, the paper declares. To-day the security of the entire Far East is threatened by aggressive Japan. To remove that barrier to security, it is obviously necessary for China and Britain to strengthen their co-operation. The paper observes that in view of China's needs at the moment, British co-operation is necessary either to restore the function of the Burma Road or to open other routes. Strengthening of the Sino-British alliance is thus demanded both objectively and by practical necessity, says the paper. Such strengthening would be an important sign of solidarity among the United Nations, which in turn would constitute a great force in the defeat of violence and aggression.

Japanese and American Sinkings

ACCORDING to a tabulation made by the American Associated Press, which is based on United States and Allied communiqués and announcements, Japanese shipping losses in the Pacific by April 4 were increased to 535. This figure represents Japanese ships of all types that have been sunk since the attack on Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941.

Japanese and American sinkings are tabulated as follows :—

	Japanese.	United States.
Battleships	3	1
Air-craft-carriers ..	6	4
Cruisers	42	8
Destroyers	75	23
Submarines	35	..
Transports	114	7
Merchantmen	200	12
Torpedo boats	1	11
Minesweepers	10	6
Gunboats	7	5
Patrolboats	7	1
Oilers	7	3
Auxiliaries	9	4
Miscellaneous	19	4
Total ..	**535**	**89**

The American total of 89 ships refers only to those in the Pacific and the Far Eastern waters. The United States has not announced any losses as a result of any action against the Japanese since February 16.

42 Grandsons in the Army

A 78-year-old Kazakh, Ashim Ibrayev, living in the village of Akbulum, in the Jamboul region, has recently sent his 42nd grandson to the Red Army. All the 42 grandsons of this Kazakh are fighting at the fronts. The Ibrayev family has so far destroyed 200 German Fascists. The old man, Ashim Ibrayev, himself is working as a supply agent for the co-operative societies; he has collected non-ferrous metal and scrap since the beginning of the war in quantity sufficient to produce 2,000 shells.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

8th Apr.—Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, made a statement in the Commons on his recent visit to United States. On the question of world peace, he said that the American people shared the view that some authority was needed to ensure by force that neither Germany, Italy nor Japan would be able to repeat their aggression.

9th Apr.—It was revealed that 70 German aircraft were destroyed by the American air force in the raid on Renault works on April 4.

The Royal Air Force damaged a wireless station near Ushant. Enemy air field at Triquiville, near Le Havre was also bombed.

A heavy attack on objectives in the Ruhr was made by aircraft of the Bomber Command.

10th Apr.—The Royal Air Force attacked Duisburg and other objectives in the Ruhr. Aircraft of the Coastal Command attacked enemy shipping off the Norwegian coast.

11th Apr.—Aircraft of the Bomber Command attacked objectives in South-west Germany and the eastern Reich territory. Transport targets were attacked in France, Holland and Belgium. It was revealed that Krupps works were almost devastated as a result of the Royal Air Force raids on March 5 and 13 and April 3.

Air Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, Chief of the Fighter Command, revealed that since January this year, 121 German planes out of 960 which crossed the English coast were destroyed.

Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, Minister of Production, said: "The spring of our liberation from war has begun. We shall soon be in the high summer of military success."

General de Gaulle presided over a special meeting of the French National Committee called to hear General Catroux's report which said that almost all Frenchmen in north and west Africa were eager to see the establishment of central and provincial French authority as soon as possible. The formation of a Triumvirate to rule the French Empire (formed by General Giraud, General de Gaulle and General Catroux), it was announced, would be placed before the fighting French National Committee.

12th Apr.—Sir Charles Kingsley Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in presenting the Budget to the Parliament, said that the United Kingdom had spent £1,500 million in the United States on supplies, munitions and capital equipment since the war started. The value of British munitions sent to Russia was £170 million sterling. The cost of the war had reached £13,000 million. The total British expenditure including debt charges throughout the war period was £15,600 million. Britain was spending 15 millions sterling daily on the war.

13th Apr.—The German Radio admitted that Soviet bombers attacked Koenigsberg in north-eastern Germany.

Light coastal forces had short, sharp engagements with enemy patrol craft close to the Dutch coast. Considerable damage was caused to the enemy craft and many casualties were inflicted.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

8th Apr.—In the report of the Institute of Pacific Relations, a proposal was made for the creation of a policy-making United Nations Council, with a subsidiary regional council for the Pacific area.

The Bolivian Government published a decree on April 7 declaring Bolivia at war with the Axis powers and ordering general mobilisation.

10th Apr.—Col. Knox, United States Secretary for Navy, in a broadcast said that the tonnage of the United States fighting fleet would increase by 66 per cent this year.

M. Maxim Litvinov, Soviet Ambassador to the United States and the First Soviet Minister to Cuba, told a Press Conference that it was premature to shout "Victory."

11th Apr.—Mr. Philip Murray, President of the Congress of Industrial Organization, said that the United States, in its desire to expedite the production of war materials, had produced far more than the United Nations could use

13th Apr.—Launching a second United States war loan drive to raise 13,000 million dollars by the end of April, Mr. Henry Morgenthau, United States Secretary for the Treasury, said that a second front was just over the horizon.

Col. Knox, Secretary for Navy, said: "We still will have to clear up the Mediterranean before the shipping situation is greatly improved. Tunis can be of tremendous advantage."

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

8th Apr.—Mr. Churchill stated in the Commons that India had provided accommodation and, where necessary, support for over 400,000 evacuees.

Bombers of the United States air force attacked Mahlwagon railroad yards in Rangoon. The Royal Air Force attacked objectives in Central Burma.

10th Apr.—Royal Air Force planes bombed the Japanese-occupied villages of Angumaw and Magyichaung in the Mayu Peninsula. Enemy road and river transport were machine-gunned in the Taungup area.

A formation of enemy fighters which appeared over south-east Bengal was driven off.

The *Times*, writing on the Arakan campaign, said: "The recovery of Burma and relief of China both depend primarily on a combination of superior sea and air power. . . Until then operations in the Arakan must remain in essence diversionary and defensive."

11th Apr.—The Royal Air Force fighter patrols machine-gunned enemy targets on the Irrawaddy.

12th Apr.—The Royal Air Force bombed the Myitkyina railway line. An enemy-occupied village in the Mayu Peninsula was also bombed.

13th Apr.—The Royal Air Force bombed Yegyanbyin and Aungdaing on the Akyab island and Japanese troops near Ehkaung. Attacks were also made on Paletwa and on Naba junction.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

8th Apr.—According to well-informed circles in Rome, Hitler and Mussolini conferred on the steps to be taken for the defence of Europe against invasion.

Heavy bombers attacked Naples starting fires. Messina was also raided. Liberator bombers attacked Palemo.

The Eighth Army linked up with United States forces from Gafsa. General Montgomery said: "My troops fought splendidly. The fighting was as tough as anything since El Alamein." He also sent congratulations to the General Officer Commanding the Fourth Indian division on the brilliant victory at Wadi Arakit. General Eisenhower sent congratulations on the successful operations.

Mr. Stimson, United States War Secretary, said that the ultimate Allied objective in Tunisia was the destruction of the German Army. It was revealed that 150 Axis planes were destroyed. Axis ground forces also were strafed.

9th Apr.—Sicily and Sardinia were evacuated. It was reported that the Italian Government was likely to shift to Florence or Bologna owing to the recent appearance of Allied planes over Rome.

The Algiers Radio stated that the British were 27 miles from Tunis. Axis forces evacuated Pichon and abandoned Mehares and Mezzouna. Rommel's troops still clinging to the Axis salient west of Noual were in grave danger of being trapped.

At least 130 Axis vehicles were destroyed by the Desert Air Force and more than 200 damaged in attacks on Rommel's retreating forces.

The town of Sfax was again bombed. General Montgomery continued to chase the Afrika Korps which was in full flight.

10th Apr.—The Eighth Army took Sfax. British and American forces took the high ground north and south of Fondouk with 500 prisoners. Rommel once more headed north after the fall of Sfax. General Mannerini, an Italian General, and the headquarters of his Saharan group were captured.

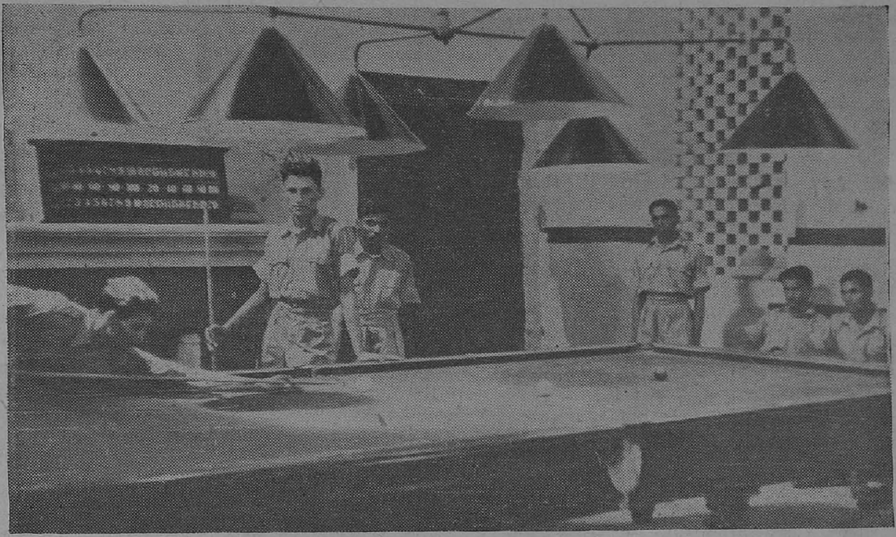
General Montgomery's order to the Eighth Army stated: "I doubt if our Empire has ever possessed such a magnificent fighting machine as the Eighth Army. It may become a household word all over the world. The triumphant cry now is, 'Forward to Tunis to drive the enemy into the sea'."

11th Apr.—Naples was bombed by the air-force of the United States Ninth Army.

The Allies captured Fondouk Pass and Rommel withdrew beyond Sousse. The American forces were 10 miles from Kairouan. The Axis evacuated the important airfield of La Fauconnerie, north-west of Sfax. An enemy convoy was attacked off the Tunisian Coast. Two Italian heavy Cruisers, *Trieste* and *Corizia*, were hit in La Madallena Harbour in Sardinia. Twenty-seven enemy air-craft were shot down.

12th Apr.—Allied troops occupied Sousse and Kairouan. All Tunisia lay within effective fighting reach of Allied short-range fighters. Palermo was again attacked. Docks and shipping at Tunis and Sicily were bombed.

According to a British Admiralty Communiqué. British submarines destroyed or damaged 15 Axis vessels in the Mediterranean.



The Canteen at the A.F.T.T.S. at Ambala, is equipped with two billiard tables, and those who do not play look on, but most of the men "take a cue" and frequent competitions are staged for the enthusiasts.

13th Apr.—According to an Italian communiqué, during the last few weeks the Italian navy lost by air and naval action three torpedo boats, two submarines and one cruiser.

The Algiers Radio stated that General Montgomery's advanced guards reached Enfidaville. An Indian battalion captured an entire German unit of 400 men. Axis forces in Maknassy were trapped.

Four hundred Italian soldiers lost their lives when an Italian transport was torpedoed off Tunis by British submarine.

According to *Reuter's* special correspondent, the North African campaign to date had caused the German and Italian forces 1,253 planes. Allied losses were 498 machines.

In a book entitled *One World* (the full story of the 31,000-mile flight which took Mr. Wendell Wilkie around the world to north Africa, Russia and China last August), he paid a tribute to General Montgomery: "The wiry, scholarly, intense, almost fanatical personality of General Montgomery made a deep impression on me."

14th Apr.—The Royal Air Force attacked Italy. Eighth Army units were in contact with the Axis forces at Sebkha Kelbia, a salt lake 20 miles west of Sousse.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

8th Apr.—The Soviets captured several favourable positions south of Izyum. Two-hundred Germans were killed and four guns destroyed. Four German aircraft were shot down.

9th Apr.—German attempts to break-through the Upper Donetz line south of Balakleya were frustrated. The Russians also smashed attacks south of Izyum. In the Kuban, the Soviets consolidated their positions.

10th Apr.—Novorossisk was under siege. The Russian heavy artillery pulverised German positions. Fresh German attacks were beaten back in the Upper Donetz positions. On the Central front, the Red Army won new ground. Torrential rain held up the Soviet offensive in the Kuban.

11th Apr.—According to *Reuter's* special correspondent: "The general opinion in Russia is that a race has now begun between the Allies and Germany for a final blow this year. The problem, as the Russians see it, is whether the Germans will have time to strike again in Russia before the Continent is invaded."

12th Apr.—Massing of German troops on the Leningrad front was reported. The Soviets dropped parachutists in occupied countries. German attacks failed on the Donetz bridgehead.

13th Apr.—In the Kuban, 25 German planes were shot down. On the Donetz front, repeated attacks cost the Germans heavy casualties.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

9th Apr.—M. Yalchin, writing in *Yeni Sabah*, said: "The Germans should not believe that they can treat Turkey like

occupied countries or those under the German yoke—if they do, Turkey is strong enough to kick out the German Commercial Mission with empty hands."

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SHIPPING

9th Apr.—It was announced that the British destroyer *Harvester* was torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic in March.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

8th Apr.—According to the German News Agency, the Greek government, headed by Professor Logotehetopoulos, had resigned and Joannis Rhallys, the well-known Greek politician, had formed a new Cabinet.

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THE FAR EAST

8th Apr.—Mr. Stimson, United States War Secretary, said that there were indications that the Japanese were increasing their air strength in the south-west Asiatic theatres, but the United States Air Forces had also increased and would be still further increased shortly.

Mr. Walter Nash, New Zealand Minister to Washington, said: "It appears that Japanese expansion has stopped. We are hitting out but are not ready just yet for a major offensive effort." Ninety-eight Japanese planes attacked American shipping near Guadalcanar. A Flying Fortress strafed three ships of a Japanese convoy at Kavieng.

On the anniversary of the fall of Bataan, General MacArthur issued the following message: "A year ago to-day, the dimming light of Bataan, a forlorn ray of hope, fluttered and died. . . Our faithful Filipino wards—16 million souls—gasp in the slavery of the conquering soldiery. . . I pray that the merciful God may not delay too long their redemption."

9th Apr.—Mr. J. B. Chifley, Commonwealth Treasurer, said that four months' campaign in New Guinea alone had cost £150 million. He added that the war might go on for years.

The report of the Institute of Pacific Relations Conference proposed that Allied troops should occupy Tokyo temporarily after the war and Japan should be completely disarmed and deprived of her entire empire including Korea, Manchuria and the mandated islands.

Mr. Curtin, Australian Prime Minister, said: "The Pacific had become a front of lost opportunities. The war will be lost or won in the Pacific."

Mr. J. O. Makin, Commonwealth Minister of Navy and Munitions, said: "Japan has at least 60 airfields in the island arc north of Australia. Japanese strategy is now one of infiltrating through the island arc."

Japanese positions on Kahili in the Solomons were bombed. Allied planes bombed and strafed Japanese barges off Kaukenau. It was reported that the Japanese may withdraw from Lae and Salamaua.

10th Apr.—There was fierce fighting round the treaty port of Swatow in southern-eastern Kwantung province. The fighting followed a Chinese raid which caused considerable damage.

11th Apr.—Ten-thousand Japanese troops, supported by aircraft, launched an attack on the Chinese positions between Tsingtao and Tsinan in northern Shantung province.

Mr. John Curtin, Australian Prime Minister, said: "Our fighting men will be fighting the enemy for many grim months, may be years, and supplies will be used up in staggering quantities."

12th Apr.—Forty-five Japanese dive bombers and fighters attacking Allied shipping at Oro in New Guinea were defeated by Allied fighters. Twenty-three Japanese planes were shot out of action. Japanese positions were bombed in the Solomons and Aleutians.

13th Apr.—General Blamey, Commander-in-Chief of the Australian land forces in Australia, said that Japan had concentrated 200,000 first-line troops and a great air force north of Australia and may be expected to undertake an offensive at any time.

Commenting on Gen. Blamey's statement, Col. Knox, U.S. Secretary for the Navy, said that a Japanese attack on Australia would require a tremendous sea force and that the Japanese had no such a sea organization north of Australia.

About 100 Japanese aircraft raided Port Moresby of which 37 were destroyed. Five Japanese bases in the Solomons were raided by U.S. aircraft.

AMERICANS IN INDIAN ARMY

. . Because they believe that it offers the best chance to shoot back at the Axis, six former members of the American Field Service, all of whom have been under fire in the Western Desert, have joined the Indian Army.

These men, having served their contracted year in the American ambulance service, decided that they wanted to go into fighting units, and volunteered as cadets.

The Americans were naturally inclined to join the United States Army, but feared that by the time they returned to their homes, completed the necessary training, and got to a theatre of war, the war would be over.

RAMA DEEPA

RAMA DEEPA is a new device for burning vegetable oils or kerosene for lighting. It is simple in construction and easy of manipulation. Vegetable oil lamps hitherto produced have two oil tanks, one above the other with a feeding pipe to supply oil to the wick. They are not suitable for the use of kerosene oil as fuel.

Rama Deepa is a dual oil lamp and therefore its purchaser will be no loser by his investment, even if kerosene comes back into common use. It covers a wide range of lighting devices to serve all purposes—hurricane lantern, table light, platform (railway) light, bed lights and naked flame ' buddi '.

Since some of the models of Rama Deepa are above the means of the poorer classes, the National War Front, Madras, have arranged with Messrs. Rama Deepa Works, Dowlaishweram (East Godavari District) to manufacture, on a large scale, three of the cheaper varieties of Rama Deepa lights, the bed room lantern, the bed light and the naked flame light.

The stamp of the National War Front will be imprinted on each lamp, and retail prices are fixed for the present at one rupee (bed room lantern), nine annas (bed light) and two annas (naked flame light).

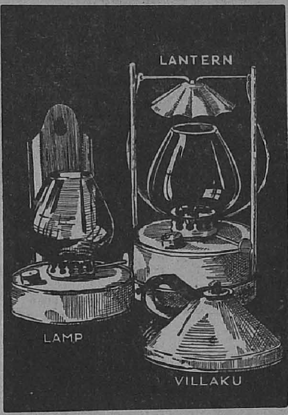
A cheap lighting device alone will not wholly solve the problem for the poor villager. Availability of the illuminant and the cost of lighting have to be taken into consideration. With this end in view, various vegetable oils have been tried with the above lamps and the results are given below. The capacity of the oil tank in the bed lantern and the bed room light is 3 ounces and the duration of light is noted below in the case of each oil :—

3 oz. of groundnut oil burns for	..	21 hours.
,, pungam (karanji) oil	..	20 ,,
,, margosa oil	.. ..	24 ,,
3 oz. of mahwa (Ippa, Illuppah) oil.		20 hours
,, tobacco oil	.. ..	21 ,,
,, mustard mixed with 25 per cent groundnut.		

Mahwa (Il- luppah) oil cannot be used in winter as it congeals like coconut oil.

Margosa oil burns longest, and, assuming that the price of one viss (3lb.) of any oil is one rupee, costs the user about one anna per week at the rate of 3 or 4 hours per day, making a monthly lighting cost of about four annas.

THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT
RAMA DEEPA LAMP



BEDROOMLAMP Rs.1-
BEDROOMLANTERN as.9
VILLAKU as.2

NOTE
3 OZS. OF GROUNDNUT OIL (COST AS.1) WILL GIVE 18 HOURS OF LIGHT. THEREFORE, AT 3 HOURS PER NIGHT A POOR FAMILY WILL HAVE LIGHT FOR A MONTH FOR ABOUT AS.5.

DISTRIBUTORS, SRIPADA NARASIMHA BROS. COCANADA

BURN VEGETABLE OIL
SAVE KEROSINE FOR THE WAR

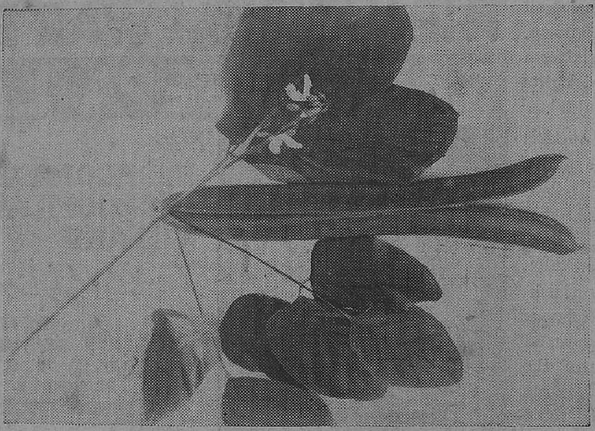
With all the above oils, Rama Deepa lights will burn continuously for about eight hours without adjustment of the wick ; the flame dies out only when the last drop of the oil is consumed.

The National War Front hopes that the people of South India will use the vegetable oil available in their locality for their lighting and thus save kerosene for essential purposes. They will thus make a substantial contribution to the self-sufficiency drive, since indigenous, and not imported, products will thus be used for essential needs.

Grow More Food—in Your Gardens!

Beans and Peas

Sword Bean



Canavalia gladiata, Lat. ; *Family Leguminosae* ; *Valavarai*, Tam. ; *Valavarakka*, Mal.

Description.—A large woody twiner and a perennial ; leaves are trifoliate, like that of the ordinary bean. Flowers in the form of racemes ; flowers may be pink or white. The pods are large and flat and contain usually more than 10 seeds.

Propagation.—From seeds which can be obtained from dry pods. Seeds are sown in well-prepared beds and buried about an inch deep. Well-rotted cattle manure should be added occasionally.

Cultivation.—The plants are allowed to climb over a trellis, or a fence. Pods are produced in about three or four months ; though the plant may appear to die down in summer, it sprouts again when rains set in. Best suited to the plains.

Uses.—The immature pods are used for curries. The tender seeds may be peeled and used as broad-beans.

General analysis.—Water 88·6 per cent ; mineral 0·6 per cent ; proteins 2·7 per cent ; fat 0·2 per cent ; fibre 1·5 per cent ; carbohydrate 6·4 per cent ; calories per lb. 190 ; calcium 0·126 per cent ; phosphorus 0·092 per cent ; iron 0·002 per cent ; vitamin B, I.U. per 100 gms. 25 ; vitamin C mgms. per 100 gms. 50.

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